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Bill Creating Authority Board for DWSD Sent to Governor

Senate Bill 195 sponsored by Senator Laura Toy concurred in by Michigan Senate

LANSING – Legislation sponsored by Senator Laura Toy, R-Livonia, to create an authority board for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is now headed to Governor Jennifer Granholm for consideration.

“Senate Bill 195 has been rumored to be unconstitutional and that is incorrect,” Toy said. “The constitutions of Michigan and the United States are quite clear when they say that ‘takings’ involve private property, and the DWSD is clearly a public utility. I hope that Governor Granholm considers the opinions of all her constituents, and signs SB 195 into law.”

The Senate concurred in the minor changes made to SB 195 by the House of Representatives. The changes clarify how water rates are disclosed and which court has jurisdiction to hear challenges filed against this law.

“It is now time to end the politics and personalities and put forward good public policy for fair representation to all of the taxpayers of Southeast Michigan,” Toy said. “Anything less would be unconstitutional. Above all else, as a state Senator of the 6th district, I want to be able to tell my entire district that our water is safe, our rates are fair, and our contracts are honest. It is time for the Governor to sign this legislation. Our residents expect it and deserve it!”

SB 195 would create a five-member authority board to provide oversight on rate increases and contracts of the DWSD. The board would be modeled after the Michigan Public Service Commission.

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Note: Audio comments from Senator Toy on Gov. Granholm's consideration of Senate Bill 195 are available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000 or online at the Michigan Senate Republican Audiowire, located at

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/>.

A video clip of Senator Toy speaking on SB 195 is also available on the Michigan Senate Republican Audiowire, as an "mpeg" file.

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